

HOUSE BILL 406

P1

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CF 5lr1608

By: **Delegates Guzzone, Hill, Shetty, White Holland, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers,**
3 **Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists – Appointment of**
4 **Members and Quorum**

5 FOR the purpose of altering the appointment process for licensed audiologist, hearing aid
6 dispenser, and music therapist members of the State Board of Examiners for
7 Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music
8 Therapists; altering the requirements for a quorum of the Board; and generally
9 relating to the State Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers,
10 Speech–Language Pathologists, and Music Therapists.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Health Occupations
13 Section 2–202(a)(1) and (2)(i), (v), and (vi)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Health Occupations
18 Section 2–202(a)(5), (6), and (8) and 2–204(a)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Health Occupations**

24 2–202.

25 (a) (1) The Board consists of 15 members.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) Of the 15 Board members:

(i) 3 shall be licensed audiologists who have at least 5 years' paid work experience in audiology and are currently practicing audiology in the State;

(v) 3 shall be licensed hearing aid dispensers who have at least 5 years' paid work experience in dispensing hearing aids and are currently practicing hearing aid dispensing in the State; and

(vi) 2 shall be licensed music therapists who have at least 5 years' paid work experience in music therapy and are currently practicing music therapy in the State.

(5) (i) Subject to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the Governor shall appoint the audiologist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the [Maryland Academy of Audiology] **BOARD.**

(ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the number of vacancies.

(iii) For each audiologist vacancy, the Board shall notify all licensed audiologists in the State of the vacancy to solicit nominations to fill the vacancy.

(6) (i) The Governor shall appoint the hearing aid dispenser members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the [Maryland members of the Hearing Society of Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Delaware] **BOARD.**

(ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the number of vacancies.

(III) FOR EACH HEARING AID DISPENSER VACANCY, THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY ALL LICENSED HEARING AID DISPENSERS IN THE STATE OF THE VACANCY TO SOLICIT NOMINATIONS TO FILL THE VACANCY.

(8) (i) The Governor shall appoint the music therapist members, with the advice of the Secretary, from a list submitted to the Secretary and the Governor by the [Maryland Association for Music Therapy] **BOARD.**

(ii) The number of names on the list shall be at least 3 times the number of vacancies.

1 **(III) FOR EACH MUSIC THERAPIST VACANCY, THE BOARD SHALL**
2 **NOTIFY ALL LICENSED MUSIC THERAPISTS IN THE STATE OF THE VACANCY TO**
3 **SOLICIT NOMINATIONS TO FILL THE VACANCY.**

4 **[(iii)] (IV)** On or before December 31, 2021, the music therapist
5 members shall be board certified music therapists, as defined in § 2–4A–01 of this title.

6 **[(iv)] (V)** On or after January 1, 2022, the music therapist members
7 shall be licensed professional music therapists, as defined in § 2–4A–01 of this title.

8 2–204.

9 (a) A majority of the **APPOINTED** members [currently serving on] **OF** the Board[,
10 with at least 1 audiologist, hearing aid dispenser, speech–language pathologist, and music
11 therapist regulated under the provisions of this title being present,] is a quorum to do
12 business.

13 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2025.